Doug TenNapel's

$2.95

EARTHWORM JIM

#4

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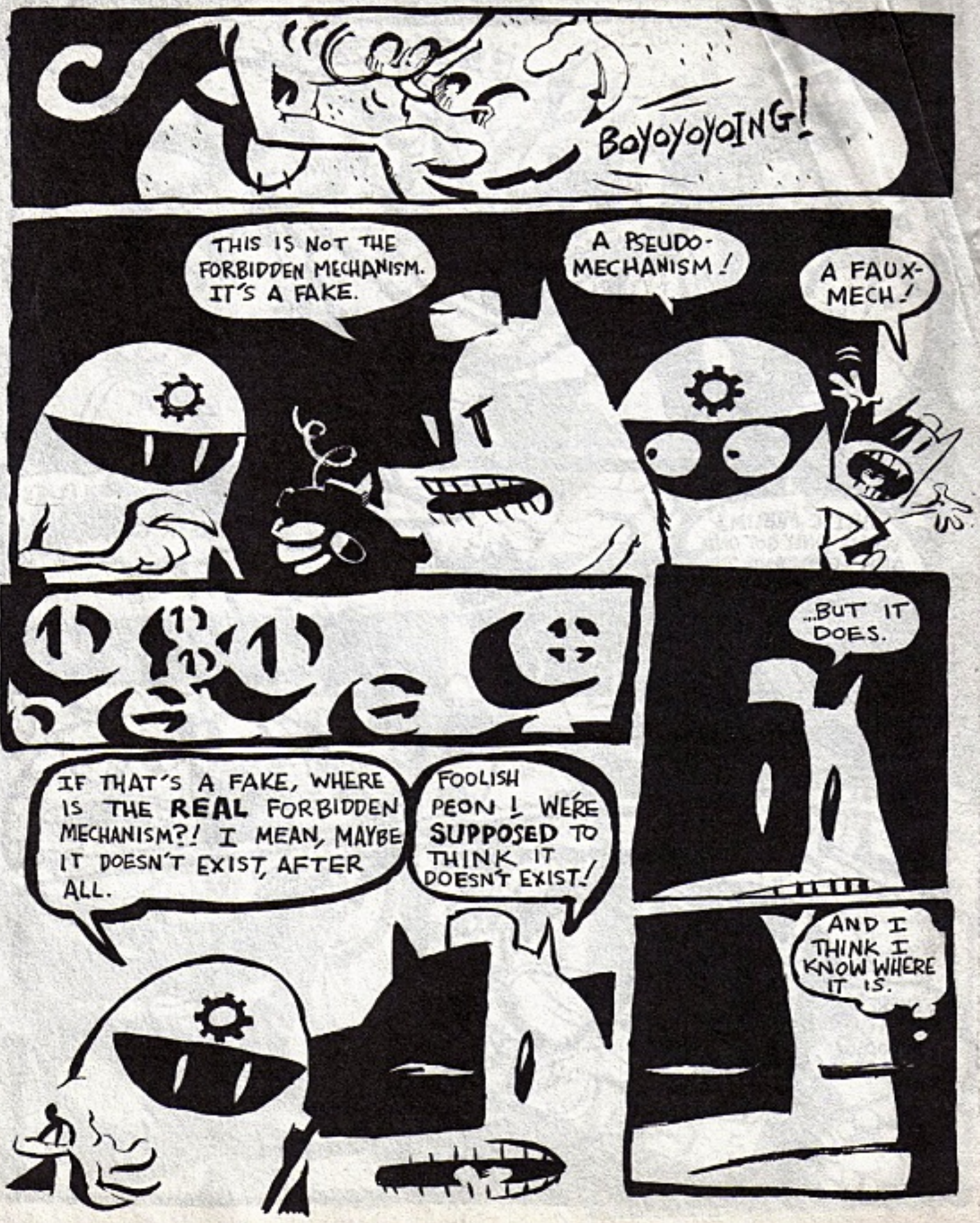

BOYOYOYOING!
THIS IS NOT THE FORBIDDEN MECHANISM. IT'S A FAKE.
A PSEUDO-MECHANISM!
A FAUX-MECH!
...BUT IT DOES.
IF THAT'S A FAKE, WHERE IS THE REAL FORBIDDEN MECHANISM?! I MEAN, MAYBE IT DOESN'T EXIST, AFTER ALL.
FOOLISH PEON! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO THINK IT DOESN'T EXIST!
AND I THINK I KNOW WHERE IT IS.

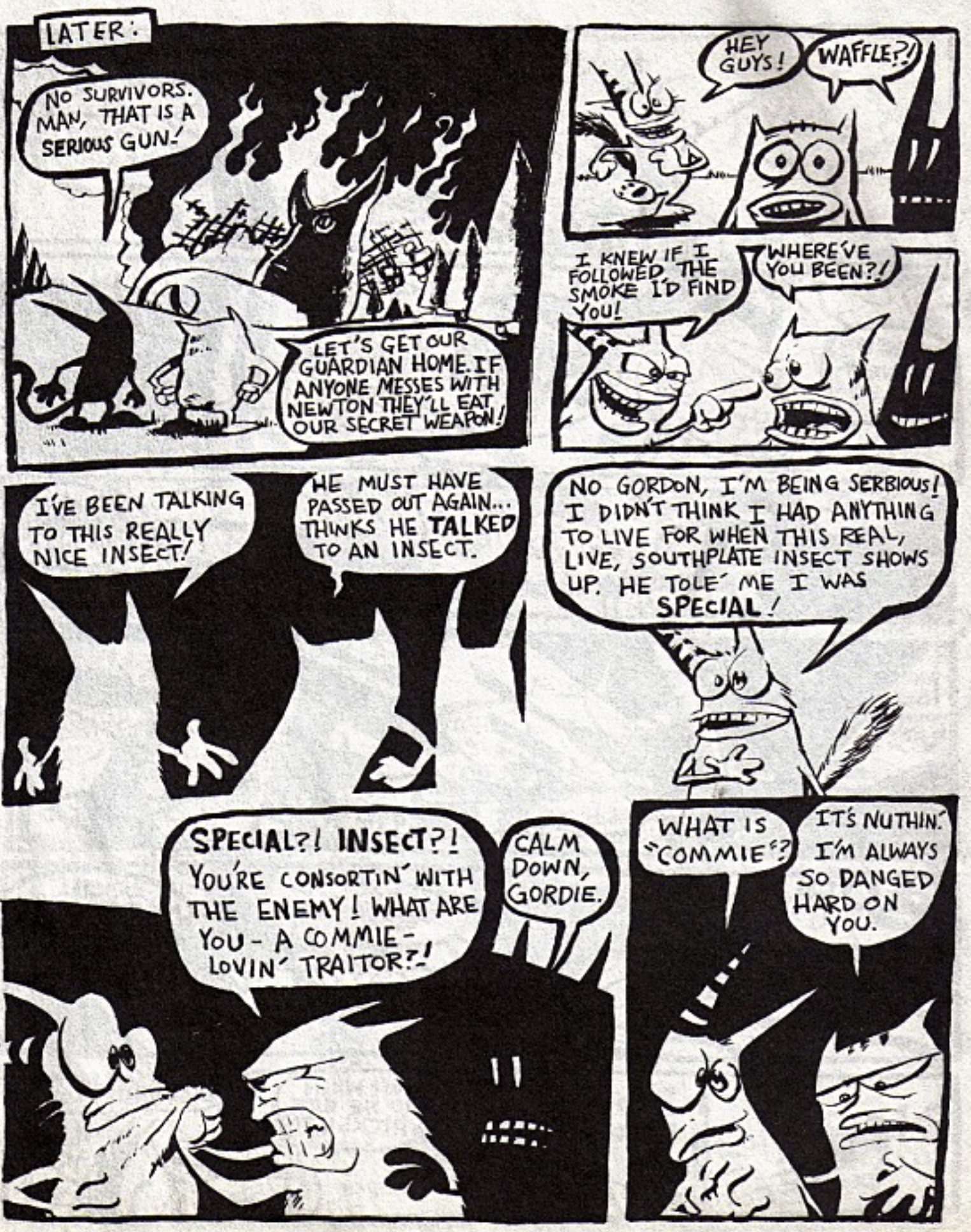
FZZZZZZ
POOM!
POOM!
SHIITE MUSLIM! WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE ARM LEFT AND I GOTTA USE IT AS A SHIELD!
GORDIE, GET BACK ON DA' WHEEL!!
THE NORTH PLATE CATS UPGRADED THEIR GUARDIANS...
FSSSSSS
OWNER'S MANUAL
PING!
...THERE'S A BIG GUN ON BOARD SOMEWHERE!

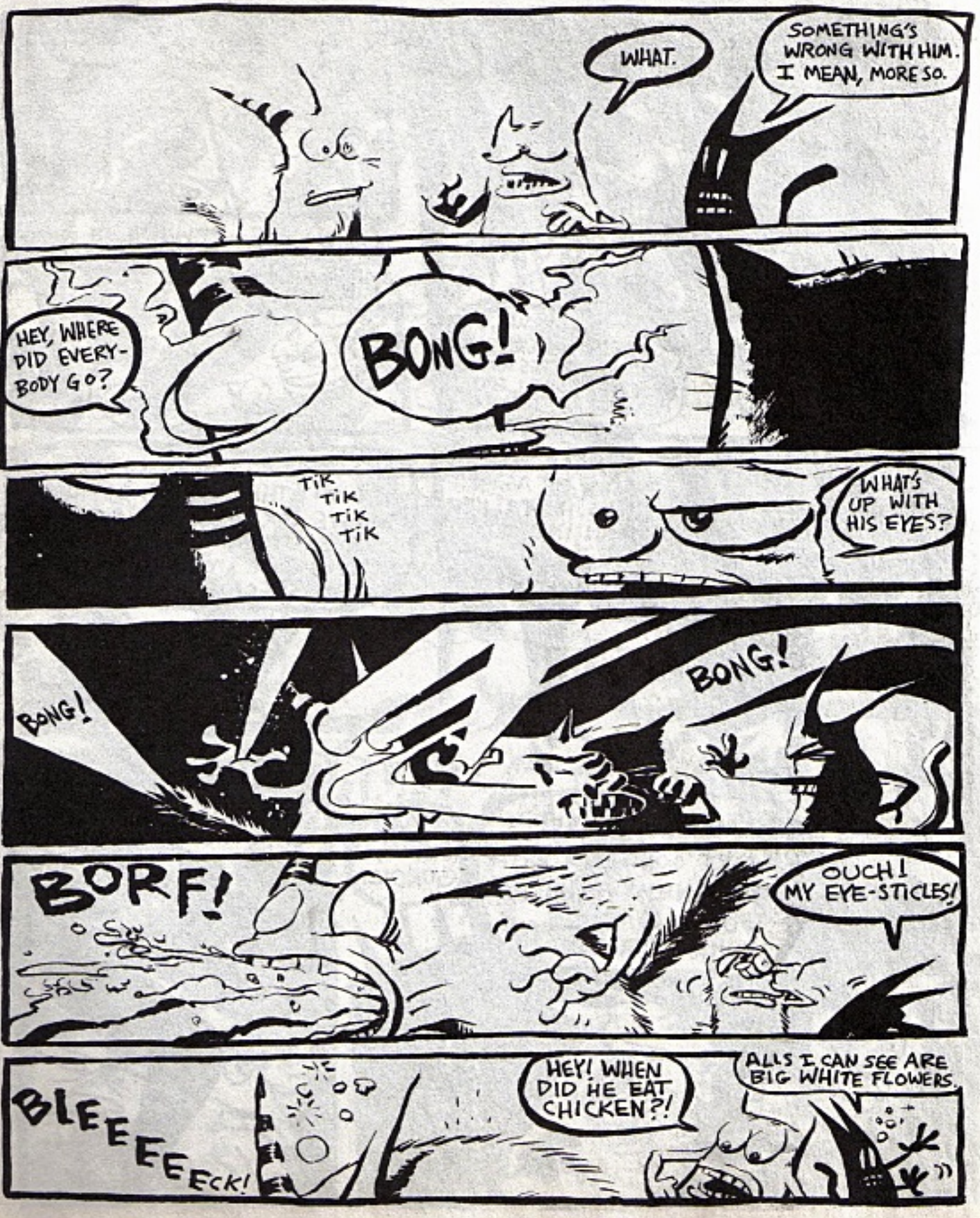
B-CHOK!
I BOOT YOUR FACE! BOOT-IN-DEE EYE!!
TINK.
OWNER'S MANUAL
OOOO! LOOKIE WHAT I FOUND!
VZZZZT

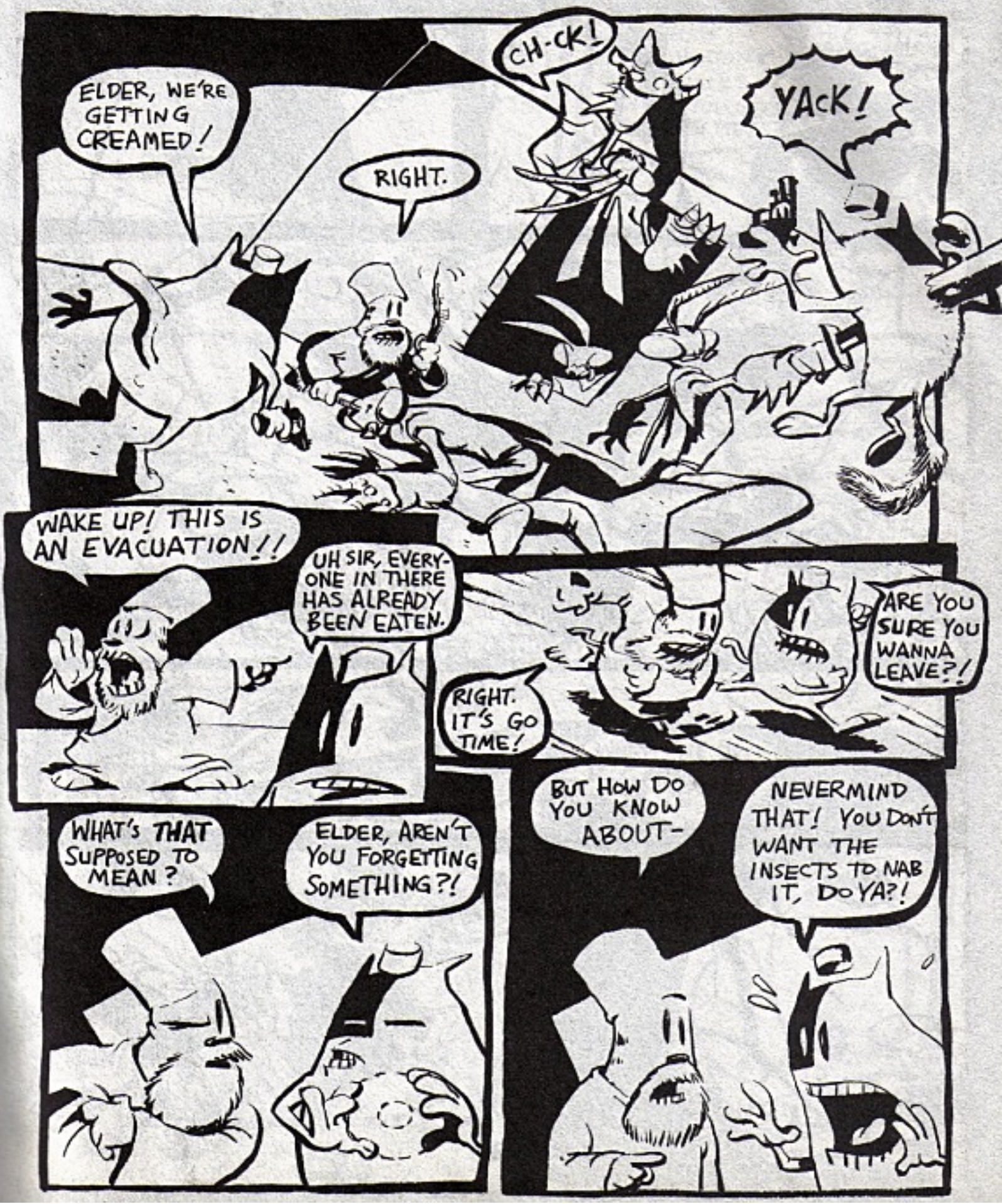
VZZZT
BZZZT
WHAT'RE YOU WAITIN' FOR GORDIE?! PULL THE TRIGGER!
I CAN'T! THE FIRE BUTTON IS AT THE END OF THIS WIRE SOMEWHERE! MAN, I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE DON'T PUT TOOLS BACK THE WAY THEY FOUND EM'!
CREAK!
I FOUND IT, MR. BLACK!
CHONK!
READY... AIM...
EEK- GAD!

AAAA
AAA
AAA
GORDON!
AAAAAA
GORDIE, HOLD ON AND I'LL PULL YOU UP!
NO TIME FOR THAT, MR. BLACK! YOU JUST HOLD ON TIGHT!
BZZZT

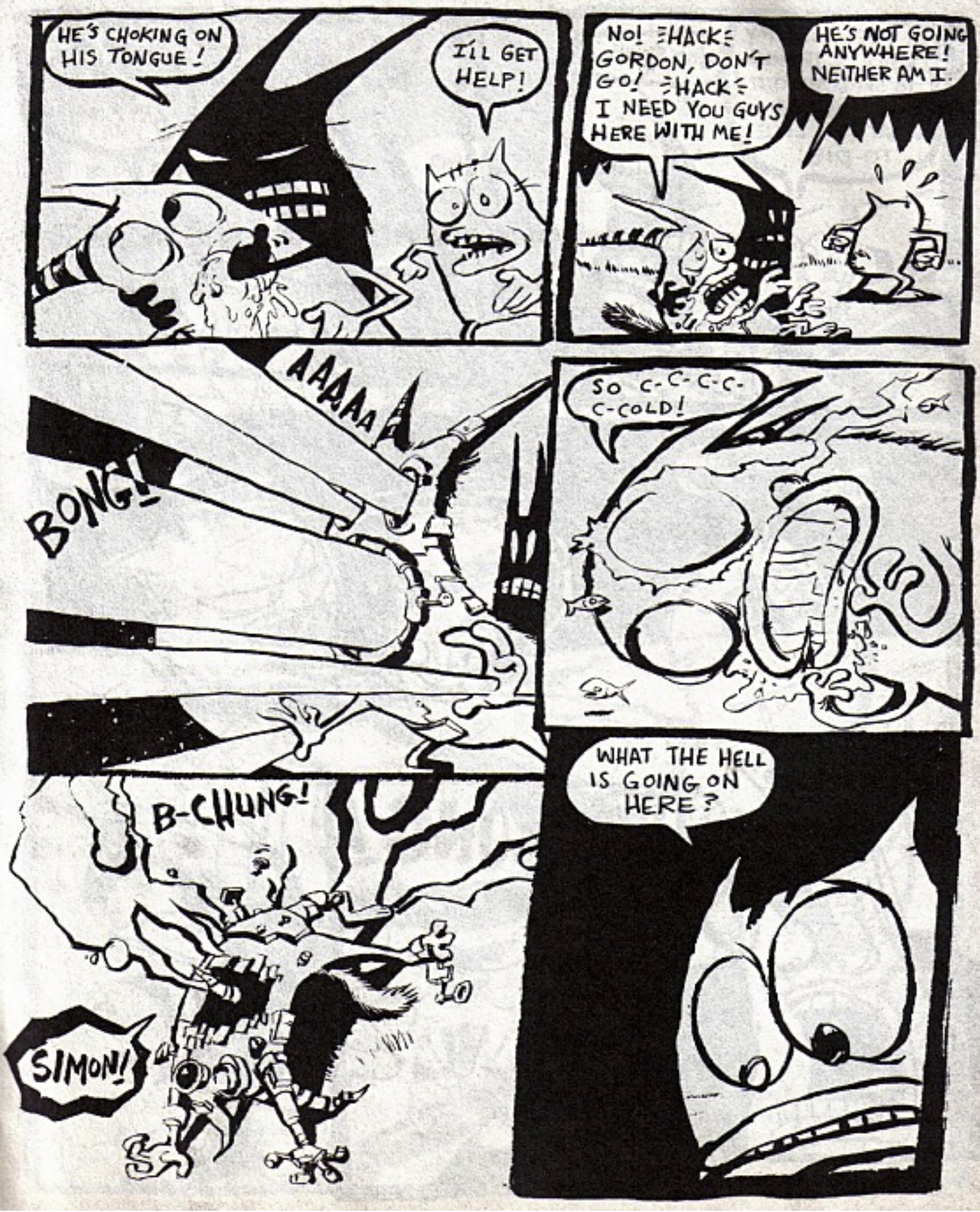
BLAZE!
EEP
B-BAM!

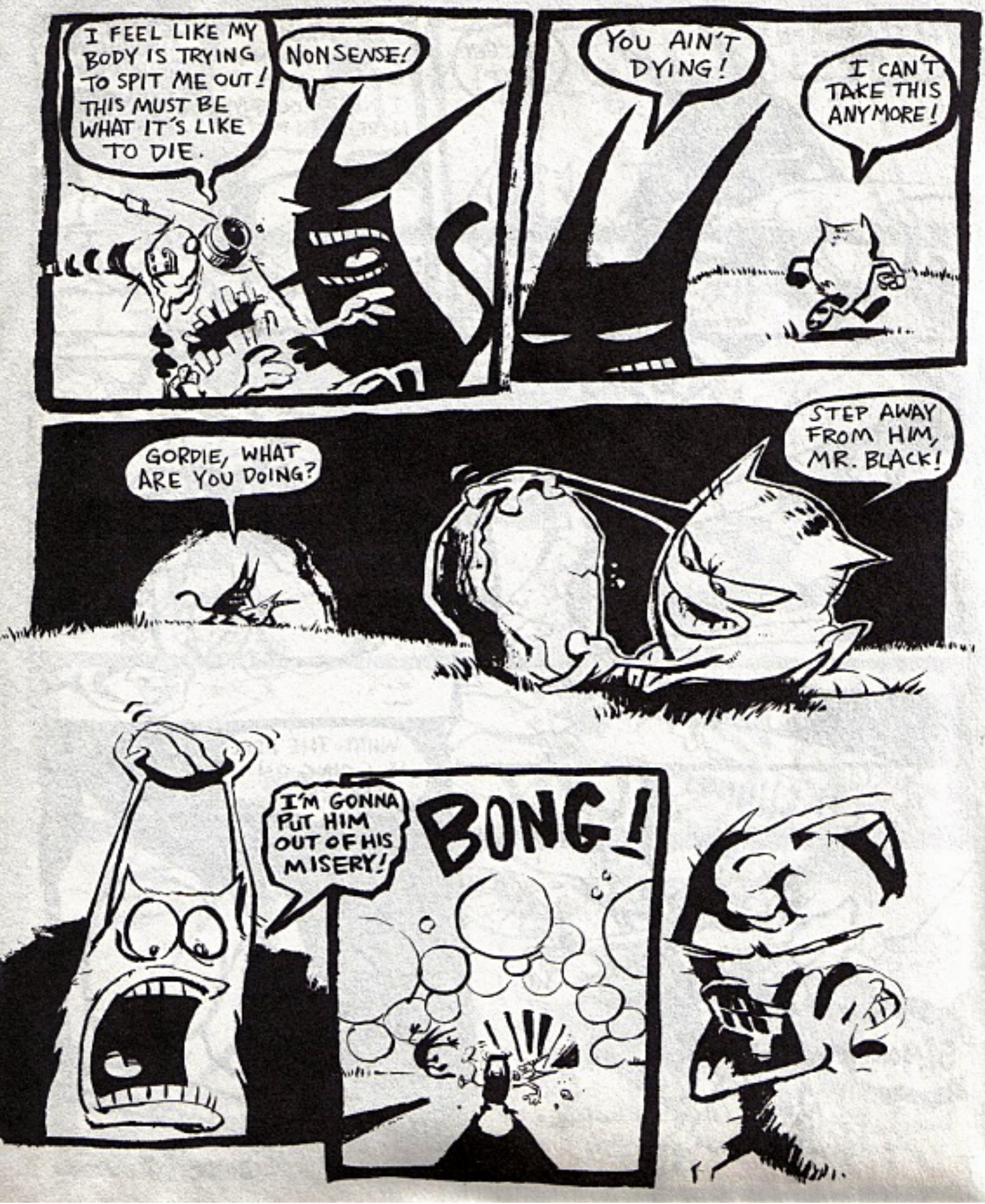

LATER:
NO SURVIVORS. MAN, THAT IS A SERIOUS GUN!
LET'S GET OUR GUARDIAN HOME. IF ANYONE MESSES WITH NEWTON THEY'LL EAT OUR SECRET WEAPON!
HEY GUYS!
WAFFLE?!
I KNEW IF I FOLLOWED THE SMOKE I'D FIND YOU!
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?!
I'VE BEEN TALKING TO THIS REALLY NICE INSECT!
HE MUST HAVE PASSED OUT AGAIN... THINKS HE TALKED TO AN INSECT.
NO GORDON, I'M BEING SERBIOUS! I DIDN'T THINK I HAD ANYTHING TO LIVE FOR WHEN THIS REAL, LIVE, SOUTHPLATE INSECT SHOWS UP. HE TOLE' ME I WAS SPECIAL!
SPECIAL?! INSECT?! YOU'RE CONSORTIN' WITH THE ENEMY! WHAT ARE YOU - A COMMIE-LOVIN' TRAITOR?!
CALM DOWN, GORDIE.
WHAT IS "COMMIE"?
IT'S NUTHIN'. I'M ALWAYS SO DANGED HARD ON YOU.


WHAT.
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HIM. I MEAN, MORE SO.
HEY, WHERE DID EVERY-BODY GO?
BONG!
TIK TIK TIK TIK
WHAT'S UP WITH HIS EYES?
BONG!
BONG!
BORF!
OUCH! MY EYE-STICLES!
BLEEEEEECK!
HEY! WHEN DID HE EAT CHICKEN?!
ALLS I CAN SEE ARE BIG WHITE FLOWERS.


ELDER, WE'RE GETTING CREAMED!
RIGHT.
CH-CK!
YACK!
WAKE UP! THIS IS AN EVACUATION!!
UH SIR, EVERY-ONE IN THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN EATEN.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANNA LEAVE?!
RIGHT. IT'S GO TIME!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
ELDER, AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?!
BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT-
NEVERMIND THAT! YOU DON'T WANT THE INSECTS TO NAB IT, DO YA?!

RIGHT!
LUCKY GUESS.
CH-CK!
AAAAAAAA
POP!
POP!
ROOAR!
CH-CK!
CH-CK!
POP!
CH-CK!
POP!


HE'S CHOKING ON HIS TONGUE!
I'LL GET HELP!
NO! =HACK= GORDON, DON'T GO! =HACK= I NEED YOU GUYS HERE WITH ME!
HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE! NEITHER AM I.
AAAAAA
BONG!
SO C-C-C-C-C-COLD!
B-CHUNG!
SIMON!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?


I FEEL LIKE MY BODY IS TRYING TO SPIT ME OUT! THIS MUST BE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO DIE.
NONSENSE!
YOU AIN'T DYING!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!
GORDIE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
STEP AWAY FROM HIM, MR. BLACK!
I'M GONNA PUT HIM OUT OF HIS MISERY!
BONG!

BONG!
CAN'T HOLD ON TO MY BODY ANY MORE...
...CAN'T
BONG!
CREAK!
RIP!

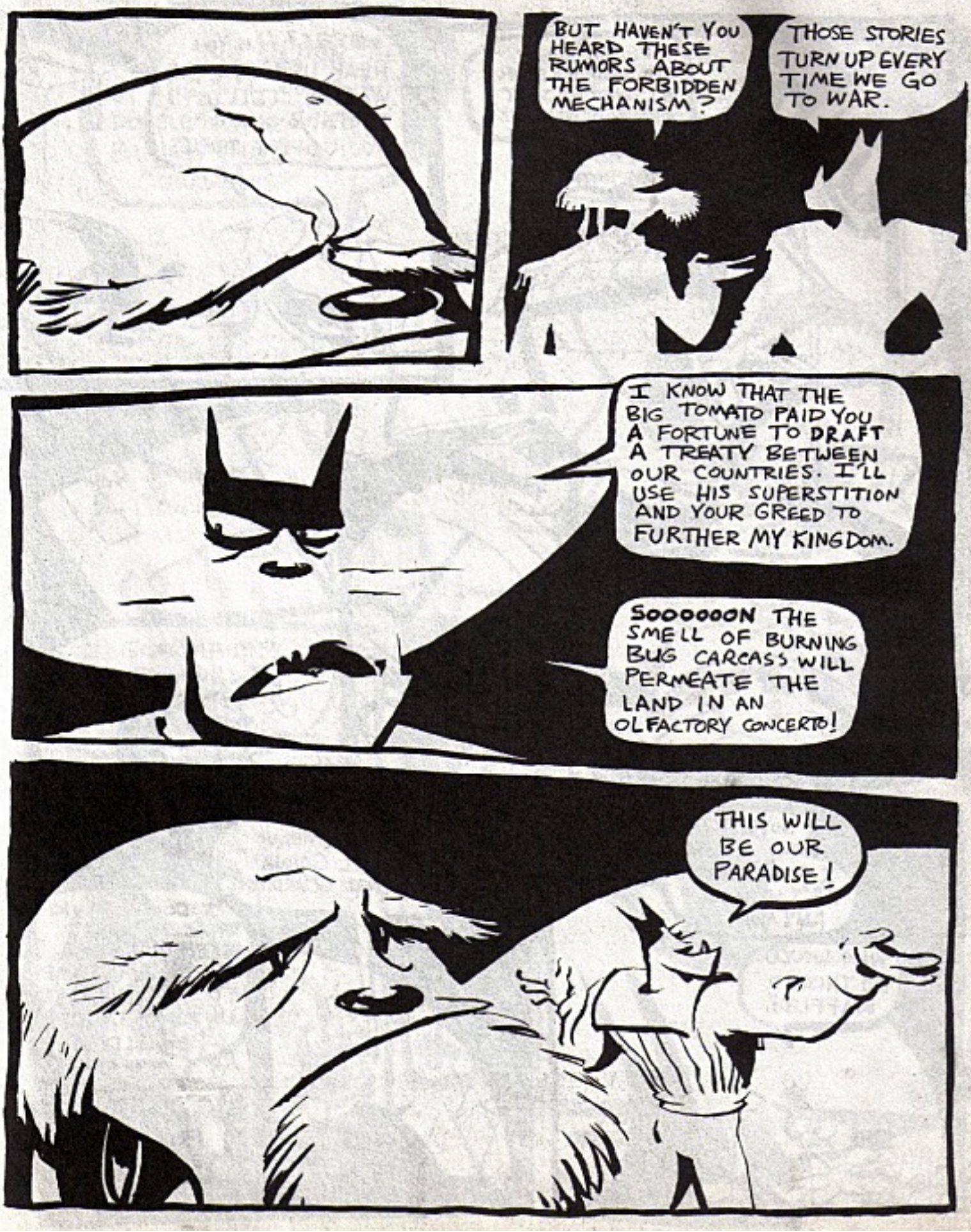
FSSSSS
WAFFLE? WAFFLE ARE YOU IN THERE?
I DON'T THINK THAT'S WAFFLE ANYMORE.

WHILE NEWTON IS ATTACKED FROM THE EAST, THEY PAY NO ATTENTION TO THEIR UNPROTECTED WEST.

BY THE TIME THEY SPOT US, WE'LL BE ON TOP OF THEIR TEMPLE.
EMPEROR PAGO, UH, ONE OF YOUR 3 GURDIANS STILL HASN'T SHOWN UP. IS THERE SOMETHING WE SHOULD KNOW?

IT'S TRUE, WE LOST CONTACT WITH ONE OF OUR GUARDIANS PATROLLING THE INSECT BORDER. I HAVE FAITH IN THE CAPABLE CAPTAIN & HIS CREW. THEY WILL BE HERE ANY HOUR. THEY WILL BE OUR BIG SURPRISE!

2
...HELL, EVEN WITHOUT THAT GUARDIAN OUR MILITIA IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO OVERCOME THE INSECTS...
EVERY GUARDIAN WILL BE ESCORTED BY 50 SOLDIERS.
NEWTON
FRIENDLY PASSAGE
DOGTOWN
DOGS ARE IMPATIENT. MY TROOPS WON'T WAIT MUCH LONGER. WE SHOULD ATTACK TONIGHT.
INSECTS WILL CRIPPLE NEWTON BY SUNRISE... ...AND THAT WILL BE OUR CUE.
NEWTON IS SMALL, BUT SO ARE ARMPITS, AND THEY CAN PUT UP QUITE A STINK.
HMMM...
ARMPITS, YES. WELL, LET THEM CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT. NEWTON MIGHT EVEN TAKE A SOUTH PLATE GUARDIAN OUT FOR US.
THE SOUTH PLATE INSECTS WILL NEED REST... AND THEN WE'LL SHOW UP.
AS YOU CAN SEE, MR. PRESIDENT, WE'VE NO WORRIES.


BUT HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THESE RUMORS ABOUT THE FORBIDDEN MECHANISM?
THOSE STORIES TURN UP EVERY TIME WE GO TO WAR.
I KNOW THAT THE BIG TOMATO PAID YOU A FORTUNE TO DRAFT A TREATY BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. I'LL USE HIS SUPERSTITION AND YOUR GREED TO FURTHER MY KINGDOM.
SOOOOOON THE SMELL OF BURNING BUG CARCASS WILL PERMEATE THE LAND IN AN OLFACTORY CONCERTO!
THIS WILL BE OUR PARADISE!

THIS METAL IS THE SAME COLOR AS WAFFLE... IT EVEN SMELLS LIKE HIM!
WAFFLE? CAN YOU HEAR US? COME ON WAFFLE, TELL US ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR GUPPIE STORIES!
NOTHING.
I DON'T THINK HE'S WITH US ANY MORE.
WHO WOULD DO THIS TO WAFFLE?...
...MAYBE THIS MEANS WE'RE ALL GONNA TURN INTO GUARDIANS.
I DON'T THINK THAT IS WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE. LET'S NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS UNTIL WE TALK TO THE ELDER.

YEAH, THE ELDER! HEY, BY THE WAY, DO WE GET DOUBLE PAYMENT FOR BRINGIN' BACK 2 GUARDIANS?
GORDON! WAFFLE IS NOT A COMMODITY. WHEN WE GET BACK TO NEWTON, HE DESERVES A HERO'S WELCOME... EVEN IF HE IS A GIANT ROBOT!
YEAH.
ALL RIGHT. WE'LL GIVE EM' A DISCOUNT ON "ONE ARM"!
GORDON!
2 GUARDIANS?! NEWTON WILL BE A BUTT-KICKING BEHEMOTH!!
GORDON!
CREAK
SORRY.

I CAN'T LET THE INSECTS GET TO THE FORBIDDEN MECHANISM!
ELDER.
YOU DIRTY-
DUCK!
AK!
POP!

WHEW! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA...
GIMME THE FORBIDDEN MECHANISM.
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE FORBIDDEN MECHANISM DOES. IT COULD DESTROY EVERYTHING FOR ALL WE KNOW!
I HAVE FAITH THAT IT WILL WIN THIS WAR FOR US!
BUT OUR FOREFATHERS AGREED NOT TO USE IT! IF WE USE IT, WE WILL BE NO BETTER THAN THE DOGS.
BUT WE AGREED NOT TO FIGHT WITH GUARDIANS EITHER AND WE ALL DO THAT!
AND IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU CREATED ANOTHER GUARDIAN!
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?!
I GREW UP WITH WAFFLE! I'VE SEEN HIS SYMPTOMS WITH MY OWN EYES!
NOW, YOU GIVE ME THE FORBIDDEN MECHANISM AND KEEP YOUR HYPOCRICIES TO YOURSELF!
HERE.

SWACK!
PUNT!
DON'T DO IT!
SORRY ELDER...
...BUT THIS IS BIGGER THAN ALL OF US.
TINK TINK TINK
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR SCREW-BALL CULT!
TINK
YOUR OLD WAYS STAND BETWEEN NEWTON AND VICTORY—
BUT NOT FOR LONG.

FOOP!
GAAAK!
WATER BEETLES! ALL AROUND ME!
THE FORBIDDEN MECHANISM!
TINK TINK TINK TINK
I SEE LIGHTS. LITTLE DANCING LIGHTS.

WE HAVE STUDIED GUARDIAN CREATION AND MUTATION FOR GENERATIONS. NONE OF US EVER THOUGHT WE'D ACTUALLY SEE THE FORBIDDEN MECHANISM.
BUT TO SEE IT ACTIVATED IS BEYOND THE GRASP OF THIS MERE MORTAL.
TINK TINK TINK
BONG!
TINK TINK

T-SHIRTS, BOOKS, ETC.

A

back

"Surreality just got funky"

B

C

back

La Cosa Nostroid

G

N

D

E

back

F

P

H

I

J

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L

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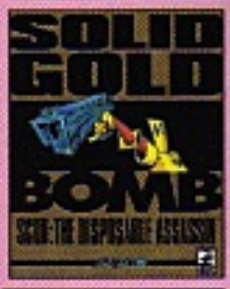

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R

S

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